

CalSIEC AGENDA REPORT

TO: California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC)

FROM: Mike Rowles, County of San Bernardino

DATE: October 1, 2009

SUBJECT: UHF TACTICAL FREQUENCY UTILIZATION FOR
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS” UTAC42 – 453/458.7125
MHZ

SUMMARY: There is a significant need to provide interoperable communications within the populous of eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County regions

BACKGROUND: The purpose this Interoperable Communications Initiative is to support mutual aid communications between L.A. County and San Bernardino County law and fire agencies. The project provides for a UHF repeater to be positioned within the County of San Bernardino. It establishes a cross-patched connection between UHF and 800 MHz users and thus offers interoperable communications on a real time basis for operations within San Bernardino County.

The operational concept discussed called for the purchasing of a repeater, and locating it at the San Sevine Peak communications site. It would be tuned to operate on one of the UHF Tactical Frequencies in the Public Safety Band and set up with a cross patch to San Bernardino County law discipline I/O talk groups. This would allow Claremont PD or any other user from L.A. County coming into San Bernardino County the ability to call Upland, Montclair, Ontario, Chino and the County of San Bernardino from a patrol or detective’s mobile unit, since these channels are always monitored. Conversely the service would be available for agencies in San Bernardino to call agencies in L.A. County.

-Set Up & Knock Down. It was noted that there may be situations where the frequency has to be released from the cross patch. This can be easily done. There is a provision for remote set up & knock down by dispatch. The repeater access is controlled by standard repeater set up and knock down function tones transmitted from dispatch consoles at Claremont P.D. and the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Office.

-Talk Group Traffic. The talk group selected for the continuous patch was one of the mutual aid 800 MHz talk groups on the County of San Bernardino system. There will be no daily, operational traffic carried on this talk group.

-UTAC & UCALL Channels. It was determined that the immediate requirement is to operate a single UTAC channel. This is based on currently available funding. Looking toward the future, service on the UCALL channel could be implemented if and when funds become available.

An extensive analysis of currently licensed co-channel and adjacent channel users was conducted in evaluating UTAC42 as a suitable frequency for this project. The City of Long Beach, the County of Los Angeles, and the Devils Canyon Dam (DWR) facilities were identified as requiring on-the-air testing. Under the authority of the State's license WQEN775, this testing was completed on 5/26/09. All agencies concurred that there were little or no concerns regarding radio frequency interference.

This project is fully supported by the 23 police departments of the cities proximate to the L.A. County/San Bernardino County border. These agencies and the Sheriff's Department of the County of San Bernardino signed letters of support. In addition, the Southern Planning Area (SPA) completed an extensive review of the operational and technical considerations pertinent to this project. The view of the SPA is that the concepts of this project are operationally sound, technically feasible, and they are in keeping with good practices for interoperable communications. An official endorsement letter was signed by Captain Scott D. Edson, Captain, L.A. County Sheriff's Department, Chairman, Southern Planning Area (SPA) on June 13, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve this application and authorize the City of Claremont and the County of San Bernardino to jointly operate the UTAC 42 Interoperable Communications System at San Sevaire under the auspices of a permanent FCC license to be held by the State of California.

CalSIEC Exercises Oversight Control of the UTAC42 Frequency.

In the event the frequency is required, the California Interoperable Communications Office (CICO) will coordinate with San Bernardino County and L.A. County communications officials to implement a knock down of the channel and release the frequency. San Bernardino County communications officials will be responsible for completing the knock down process and notifying the CICO that the UTAC42 frequency has been released. They will also be responsible for notifying local agencies of the temporary interruption in service on the UTAC42 channel system.
